

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. The Examiner has allowed Claims 1, 2, 4 and 8-12. Claims 3 and 7 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

35 USC § 112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected Claim 3 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph for indefiniteness. The Examiner states that the phrase "...ammonium chloride or its related compounds" is unclear. Applicant has deleted the phrase "or its related compounds". Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to Claim 3 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 5 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph for indefiniteness. The Examiner states that it is unclear what sets of compounds the phrase "...distillation residues of tetraethylenepentamine...distillation residues of hexaethyleneheptamine...distillation residues of pentaethylenehexamine" refers to. Applicant respectfully disagrees. It is clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that the phrase "distillation residues" refer not only to, for example, the pure pentaethylenehexamine, but also to the residues present after the preparation of the pentaethylenehexamine which include homologues and isomers of pentaethylenehexamine. The same is true with respect to distillation residues of tetraethylenepentamine and hexaethyleneheptamine. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to Claim 5.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 6 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. The Examiner states that it is unclear exactly to what set of polyamines the phrase "...the group of reaction products of dichloroethane with ammonia and/or amines or from the group of reaction products of ethylene oxide with ammonia or amines" refers to. Applicant respectfully disagrees. It is known to one of ordinary skill in the art that a given reaction may result in a number of reaction products or by-products. In this instance, for example, several polyamines may be produced as by-products during the given reaction. This is further evidenced by formulae (I) and (II) recited in Claim 7 which describe some of these polyamines by a general formula. Therefore it is clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that with

respect to Claim 6, the by-products of the reaction may be utilized in the claimed process and that it would be an impractical task to list every component of the composition of the reaction products. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to Claim 6.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 7 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph for indefiniteness. The Examiner states that it is unclear how variables p and t can be any integer other than 2 or how r can be any value other than 1. The Examiner also states that the phrase "nitrogen is in each case triply or quadruply" bonded is unclear. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement that it is unclear how the variables p and t can be any other integer than 2. In fact, the values of variables p and t can be 1 because the polyamino compounds may also be intramolecularly bridged by ethylene bridges so that the amino moiety is not necessarily a primary one. The same applies to the variable r which is 0 when the corresponding nitrogen is a tertiary one (linked to three ethylene bridges or groups). Applicant has also amended Claim 7 to delete the phrase "wherein nitrogen is in each case triply, or quadruply (ammonium salt) bonded" to attend to the Examiner's rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to Claim 7.

In view of the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove, Applicant believes that claims are in condition for allowance, and notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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